

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

To say that I am concerned about this would be putting it mildly. This is exactly what happens when too few own the media outlets. We have let you know our concerns before and will continue to do so. Sinclair should not be allowed to force their affiliates to show this anti-Kerry movie without giving equal time to a pro-Kerry or anti-Bush movie. This is such a blatant move on their part that it takes one's breath away. I, for one, am going to find out who the advertisers are and let them know that I will not use their products in the future if they let themselves be used this way.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.